

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney appreciates the telephone interview granted by Examiner Hua on May 25, 1995, in order to clear up some inconsistencies in the outstanding Examiner's Action dated May 18, 1995. It was concluded that the summary designations of allowed and rejected claims in the cover sheet (line 3), page 2 (line 1) and page 3 (first line of para. 4) are in error. The correct status is as follows: Claims 79-97 stand allowed, claims 64-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, and claims 63-78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the Nozawa et al. patent no. 4,525,839. It is with this understanding of the Examiner's Action that this responsive Amendment has been prepared and is being filed.

All of the rejected claims 63-78 are being cancelled without prejudice. The allowance of claims 79-97 is appreciated. Upon further review of the allowed claims, certain amendments to them have appeared to be desirable. Independent claim 79 is being amended to more generically describe the techniques disclosed in the present application for linking addresses of usable and unusable sectors, and then dependent claims 98 and 99 are being added to define two of those techniques. Editorial changes are being made to dependent claims 88 and 90. The amendment to allowed independent claim 92 eliminates reference to an erasing operation. It is expected that these few minor changes will not require reconsideration of the allowed claims.

In addition to new dependent claims 98 and 99, mentioned above, claims 100-127 are being added by this amendment. Claim 100 is dependent upon allowed independent claim 85, which is not being

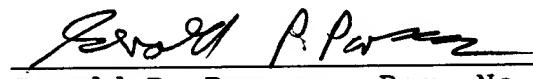
amended in any way. Method claim 101 is one of only two independent claims being added, system claim 116 being the other. Claim 101 is similar to allowed claim 85 but is has a somewhat different scope. In a similar way, new independent system claim 116 corresponds to allowed claim 92. Since the essential novel features of the allowed claims are retained in new claims 101 and 116, they, and their dependent claims 102-115 and 117-127, are submitted to be allowable.

A Third Supplemental Disclosure Statement is being filed with this Amendment.

An early formal allowance of this application is solicited. However, if the Examiner has any further matters which require resolution, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney in order that they may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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